

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
January 28, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Date of

27 January 2005

BHP Billiton Plc

Registration Number 3196209

Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH

United Kingdom

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| Form 20-F | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Form 40-F | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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|-----|--------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

Date 27 January 2005

Number 05/05

BHP BILLITON APPOINTS PRESIDENT METALLURGICAL COAL

BHP Billiton today announced the appointment of Dave Murray to a new position of President Metallurgical Coal, effective immediately.

Announcing the appointment, Carbon Steel Materials Group President, Bob Kirkby, said that the new position would provide a global focus for the coking coal business, with responsibility for all BHP Billiton's metallurgical coal operations and interests including Queensland Coal and Illawarra Coal in Australia and the Maruwai project in Indonesia, as well as marketing, strategy and business development.

Mr Murray will move from his current role as Chief Executive Officer of BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance based in Brisbane, to Melbourne, and will join BHP Billiton's Executive Committee.

The announcement follows the recent appointments of Graeme Hunt to President BHP Billiton Iron Ore, with responsibility for the company's global iron ore operations, and Ian Ashby to President and Chief Operating Officer, Western Australian Iron Ore, reporting to

Mr Hunt.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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Background information

David Murray

Prior to his appointment as President Metallurgical Coal, Mr Murray was Chief Executive Officer, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Coal from August 2001.

From 1999 to 2001, Mr Murray was Chief Executive Billiton Coal and from 1993 to 1999, he was Managing Director of Trans-Natal Coal Corporation/Ingwe Coal Corp.

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Mr Murray started his career in 1978 as a Trainee Mining Engineer with Gencor Limited and has worked in the coal industry throughout. He serves as a director of the World Coal Institute and of the Queensland Mining Council.

Career

Chief Executive Officer, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Coal 2001-2005; Chief Executive Billiton Coal, 1999-2001; Managing Director, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation/Ingwe Coal Corp. 1993-1999; Senior Manager Projects and Technical, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation, 1991-1993; Group Manager Projects, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation; Group Manager Technical, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation 1988-1989; Area Manager Operations, Trans-Natal 1988; Mine Manager/Acting General Manager, Optimum Colliery 1986-1987; Project Engineer, Trans-Natal 1984; Underground Manager, Matla Coal Limited 1982- 1984; Senior Technical Assistant, Matla Coal Limited 1982; Technical Assistant, Optimum Colliery 1980-1981; Miner/Shiftboss, Hlobane Colliery 1979-1980; Student/Trainee Mining Engineer, Gencor Limited 1978-1979.

Personal

BSc Civil Engineering, Natal University, South Africa, 1978

Post Graduate Diploma in Engineering, Pretoria University, South Africa, 1979

Advanced Executive Program, UNISA, 1985

Married with two children

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria
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Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP BILLITON

PLC
/s/ KAREN WOOD

Karen Wood
Title: Company Secretary
Date:

27 January 2005